

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 11 as provided below. Please cancel claims 6 and 7, without prejudice. A listing of the pending claims follows:

1. (Currently amended) A blunable needle assembly comprising:
a needle component comprising a housing and a needle cannula mounted in the housing, the needle cannula having a sharp tip, wherein the housing defines a fluid chamber and an access port for fluid flow therethrough; and
a blunting component comprising a shuttle member and a blunting probe ~~mounted~~ received in a slot on the shuttle member, wherein the blunting probe comprises a hollow tube open only at the ends and a blunt tip, and wherein the slot is capable of fluid flow therethrough;
wherein the blunting probe is disposed within the needle cannula and wherein the needle component and the blunting component are configured for movement from a sharpened configuration to locking engagement in a blunted configuration; and
wherein the shuttle member is configured to extend outside the fluid chamber and to permit fluid flow from the open end of the blunting probe into the fluid chamber.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The needle assembly of claim 1 comprising a detent and a stay engagement between the needle component and the blunting component, the detent being movable between (i) a locking position in which it may bear against the stay and prevent the needle assembly from moving to the sharpened configuration and (ii) an unlocked position which permits the needle assembly to move to the sharpened configuration.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The needle assembly of any one of claims 1 or 3 wherein the shuttle member defines a non-perforating cavity within which the blunting probe is mounted.
- 6-7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) The needle assembly of claim 3 wherein the shuttle member comprises the movable detent.
9. (Original) The needle assembly of claim 3 wherein the detent further comprises a coupling site for engagement by an accessory device.

10. (Original) The needle assembly of claim 1 comprising a flash chamber.

11. (Currently amended) A blunable needle assembly comprising:

a needle component comprising a housing and a needle cannula mounted in the housing, the needle cannula having a sharp tip;

and a blunting component comprising a shuttle member and a blunting probe ~~mounted~~ received in a slot on the shuttle member, the shuttle member defining a fluid chamber and an access port for fluid flow, and wherein the blunting probe comprises a hollow tube open only at the ends and a blunt tip, and wherein the slot is capable of fluid flow therethrough;

wherein the blunting probe is disposed within the needle cannula and the needle component and the blunting component are configured for movement from a sharpened configuration to locking engagement in a blunted configuration with a detent and stay engagement between them, the detent being movable between (i) a locking position in which it may bear against the stay and prevent the needle assembly from moving to the sharpened configuration and (ii) an unlocked position which permits the needle assembly to move to the sharpened configuration.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The needle assembly of claim 11 wherein the shuttle member comprises the movable detent.

16. (Original) The needle assembly of claim 11 wherein the detent further comprises a coupling site for engagement by an accessory.

17. (Original) The needle assembly of claim 11 comprising a flash chamber.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claim 1, claim 11.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

U.S. Patent No. 6,391,007 ("Chang et al."); U.S. Patent No. 6,544,239 ("Kinsey et al.")

Proposed Amendments

Amend claims 1 and 11 to recite a blunting probe received in a slot.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Chang et al. does not disclose or suggest a blunting probe that is a hollow tube. Kinsey et al. does not disclose or suggest a blunting probe open at the ends.

Results of Interview

Examiner will consider the amendments when presented in writing.